

Message Text

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46
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1978

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG LY
SUBJECT: QADHAAFI'S MEETINGS WITH ASU: A DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS

1. AS SCHEDULED, QADHAAFI MET ON JUNE 30 WITH ASU PARLIAMENTARY BODY AND ON JULY 1 WITH ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND LOCAL ASU LEADERSHIPS. AS REPORTED BY CAIRO PRESS, SADAT INTRODUCED QADHAAFI TO PARLIAMENTARY BODY BY CALLING FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSION AND FRANK DIALOGUE, WITH FRAMEWORK OF TWO PRINCIPLES. THE FIRST WAS THAT LIBYAN REVOLUTION IS AN EXTENSION OF THE EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION. THE SECOND, HE SAID, "IS THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA... IS ONE OF DESTINY, WHATEVER FORM IT MAY EVENTUALLY TAKE. AS I SAID IN TRIPOLI, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA IS ONE OF DESTINY WHETHER OR NOT

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THERE IS UNITY." QADHAAFI REPORTEDLY THEN TOOK THE

STAND TO EXPLAIN THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, THIRD THEORY,
POPULAR COMMITTEES, ETC.

2. JULY 2 PRESS REPORTING ON QADHAAFI'S MEETING THE
DAY BEFORE WITH ASU POLITICAL LEADERSHIPS IS UNUSUALLY
REVEALING ABOUT RESERVE WITH WHICH HIS VIEWS ON UNITY
WERE GREETED. AS BEFORE, SADAT INTRODUCED QADHAAFI WITH
APPEAL FOR FRANK AND SERIOUS DIALOGUE. WHEN MEETING
WAS OPENED FOR DISCUSSION, VARIOUS EGYPTIAN SPOKE IN
APPRECIATION OF UNITY BUT EACH, AS REPORTED, HAD
RESERVATIONS. ONE NOTED NEED TO GO SLOWLY, USING
LESSONS OF SYRIAN/EGYPTIAN UNION; HE ADDED THAT THE
MERGER SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED AS SCHEDULED, BUT SHOULD
NOT BE FULL MERGER AT FIRST. A SECOND SPEAKER FELT
THAT UNITY SHOULD BEGIN WITH A CONFEDERAL STATE, NOT
ONE TOTALLY UNIFIED. A THIRD ASKED FOR THE REMOVAL OF
OBSTACLES TO UNITY, SUCH AS THE MALTREATMENT OF EGYPTIANS
IN LIBYA, BEFORE MERGER OCCURRED. IN REPLY, QADHAAFI
REPORTEDLY CONTINUED TO INSIST ON FULL POLITICAL
UNITY. HIS BASIC THESIS WAS THAT MERGER MUST BE
ESTABLISHED, AND THAT ANYTHING SHORT OF FULL MERGER
WAS INSUFFICIENT.

3. ON EVENING OF JULY 1, QADHAAFI HELD ANOTHER PRESS
CONFERENCE CONDUCTED THIS TIME AT AKHBAR AL-YAWM,
CONFERENCE WAS REPORTEDLY ATTENDED BY JALLUD (WHO
ARRIVED ON SAME DAY), RCC MEMBERS AL-HUNI AND MUHAYSHI,
AND BY QADHAAFI'S INFORMATION SECRETARY AHMAD AL-
MAQSABI. ACCORDING TO JOURNALIST WHO WAS PRESENT,
MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED PERSONS ATTENDED IN ANTICIPATION
OF A RERUN OF LAST THURSDAY'S DRAMA (CAIRO 1954). IN
FACT, QADHAAFI MADE CRITICAL REMARKS ABOUT COMMUNISM,
TRIED TO EXPLAIN CULTURAL REVOLUTION, AND EVINCED SOME
PETULANCE AT RELUCTANCE OF EGYPTIANS TO ACCEPT FULL
MERGER, BUT PRESENTATION WAS REPORTEDLY STANDARD.

4. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHERE MATTERS
ARE LEADING. BOTH EGYPTIANS AND QADAIFI ARE TREADING
WELL-WORN PATHS, WITH FORMER CAUTIONING AGAINST UNDUE
HASTE IN APPROACHING MERGER, WHILE LATTER CONTINUES
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TO PUSH AS HARD AS POSSIBLE FOR COMPLETE UNITY AS SOON
AS IT CAN BE ARRANGED. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT QADHAAFI'S
FUNDAMENTAL VIEWS HAVE NOT BEEN ALTERED BY PAST TWELVE
DAYS OF EXPOSURE TO EGYPTIANS AT ALL LEVELS. IF ANY
CHANGE HAS OCCURRED, IT MAY BE ON PART OF EGYPTIANS
THEMSELVES AS RESULT OF CLOSER EXPOSURE TO QADHAAFI.
STRONG NOTE OF RELUCTANCE ABOUT MERGER THAT HAS CREPT
INTO CAIRO PRESS OVER WEEKEND, GENERALLY NEGATIVE

TONE OF ASU COMMENTARY ON QADHAAFI'S VIEWS, AND
SADAT'S OWN STATEMENT ABOUT "WHETHER OR NOT THERE
IS UNITY," SUGGEST THAT HARD DECISIONS STILL LIE AHEAD.
WILEY

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